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Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and of the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. José Alberto **Briz Gutiérrez** (Guatemala)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2003, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and of the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 27th, 34th, 36th and 40th meetings, on 6 and 12 November and 9 and 16 December 2003. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/58/SR.27, 34, 36 and 40). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 6th meetings, from 6 to 9 October (see A/C.2/58/SR.2-6).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on the work of its nineteenth session;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (A/58/178);

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 8* (A/58/8).

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(c) Letter dated 14 July 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final communiqué adopted by the Chairmen/Coordinators of the Chapters of the Group of 77 at their thirty-fourth meeting, held at Geneva on 26 and 27 June 2003 (A/58/204).

4. At the 27th meeting, on 6 November, the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) made an introductory statement (see A/C.2/58/SR.27).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/58/L.31 and A/C.2/58/L.64

5. At the 34th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Morocco, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)" (A/C.2/58/L.31), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 3327 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974, 32/162 of 19 December 1977, 34/115 of 14 December 1979, 56/205 and 56/206 of 21 December 2001 and 57/275 of 20 December 2002,

"*Taking note* of Economic and Social Council resolutions 2002/38 of 26 July 2002 and 2003/62 of 25 July 2003,

"*Recalling* the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,

"*Recalling also* the goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020, as proposed in the Cities Without Slums initiative, and to halve by 2015 the proportion of people who are unable to reach or afford safe drinking water,

"*Taking into account* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation'), as well as the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,

"*Recognizing* the urgent need for increased and predictable financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation to ensure timely and effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Implementation,

"*Reiterating* the call to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to strengthen the Foundation in order to achieve its primary operative objective

of supporting the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, including supporting shelter, related infrastructure-development programmes and housing-finance institutions and mechanisms, particularly in developing countries,

"*Recalling* the decision of the Commission on Sustainable Development to address the themes of water, sanitation and human settlements in its next review and policy sessions,

"*Noting* the efforts by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to forge partnerships with Habitat Agenda partners, other United Nations funds and programmes and with international financial institutions, such as the World Bank,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on the work of its nineteenth session and the report of the Secretary-General on the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat);

"2. *Calls upon* Governments to integrate sustainable human settlements into their national development strategies;

"3. *Urges* Governments to promote pro-poor investments in water and sanitation in order to improve living environments, in particular in slums and informal settlements;

"4. *Encourages* Governments to establish national urban observatories and to provide financial and substantive support to UN-Habitat for the further development of methodologies for data collection and dissemination;

"5. *Calls upon* the international community and donor countries to support the efforts of developing countries towards achieving the targets and goals on sustainable human settlements through providing assistance in financial resources, technology transfer and capacity-building;

"6. *Encourages* UN-Habitat to continue to promote partnerships with local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners in order to empower them, within the legal framework and conditions of each country, to play a more effective role in the provision of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world;

"7. *Also encourages* UN-Habitat to continue to work closely with other relevant agencies within the United Nations system, including the United Nations Environment Programme;

"8. *Urges* UN-Habitat to strengthen further its efforts to make the Cities Alliance initiative an effective means for the implementation of the twin goals of the Habitat Agenda, namely, adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world;

"9. *Takes note* with appreciation of the efforts by the Cities Alliance partnership between the World Bank and UN-Habitat, and other donor countries, to continue to provide an important forum for policy coordination and development, as well as to provide support for the preparation of pro-poor

city development strategies and slum upgrading programmes within the legal framework and conditions of each country;

"10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to incorporate the Cities Without Slums initiative in his report for the 2005 review of the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

"11. *Welcomes* the fund-raising efforts of the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, which realized an increase in the general purpose contributions of the Foundation for the year 2003;

"12. *Welcomes also* the establishment by the Executive Director of UN-Habitat of a Water and Sanitation Trust Fund as a financing mechanism to support the creation of enabling environments for pro-poor investment in water and sanitation in developing country cities;

"13. *Calls* for continued financial support to UN-Habitat and its Foundation, including the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund, and invites Governments to increase unearmarked voluntary contributions to the Foundation and to provide multi-year funding to support programme implementation;

"14. *Calls upon* UN-Habitat to work closely with the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in the preparation for the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development to ensure fruitful discussion on the thematic cluster of issues on water, sanitation and human settlements;

"15. *Encourages* Governments to participate at the appropriate level with representatives from relevant departments and agencies in water, sanitation and human settlements in the next review and policy sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

"16. *Requests* donor countries to support experts in water, sanitation and human settlements from developing countries to participate in the next review and policy sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

"17. *Invites* donor countries to contribute to the travel and participation of representatives of the developing countries in the second and future sessions of the World Urban Forum;

"18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that modern conference management and documentation services, systems and technology are made available to the United Nations Office at Nairobi in order to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to the UN-Habitat and the other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

"19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

"20. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session an item entitled 'Special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the

strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)'."

6. At the 40th meeting, on 16 December, the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Irena Zubčević (Croatia), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/C.2/58/L.64), which she submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.31.

7. At the same meeting, the representative of Canada orally corrected the text as follows:

(a) At the end of operative paragraph 8, a reference was added to a footnote reading "Established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991";

(b) In operative paragraph 15 the word "(Mexico)" was deleted.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.64, as orally corrected (see para. 15, draft resolution I).

9. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.64, draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.31 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/58/L.35 and A/C.2/58/L.46

10. At the 34th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Morocco, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Rules of procedure of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)" (A/C.2/58/L.35), which read:

"*The General Assembly,*

"*Recalling* its resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, by which it established the Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat),

"*Recalling also* its resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, by which it transformed the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) into the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the Commission on Human Settlements into the Governing Council of UN-Habitat as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly,

"*Recalling further* paragraph 2 of section IA of its resolution 56/206, in which it decided that the Governing Council should propose, for consideration by the General Assembly, the new rules of procedure of the Governing Council, on the basis of the rules of procedure of the Commission on Human Settlements,

"*Bearing in mind* paragraphs 3, 7 and 8 of section IA of its resolution 56/206,

"*Having considered* the recommendations of the Governing Council as contained in its resolution 19/1 of 9 May 2003, including the oral statement by

the Chairman of the Working Group on the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council, as contained in the report of the Governing Council at its nineteenth session,

"*Adopts* the rules of procedure of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) as annexed to Governing Council resolution 19/1."

11. At the 36th meeting, on 9 December, the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Irena Zubčević (Croatia), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Rules of procedure of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/C.2/58/L.46), which she submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.35.

12. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.46 (see para. 15, draft resolution II).

13. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Argentina made a statement (see A/C.2/58/SR.36).

14. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.46, draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.35 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

15. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3327 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974, 32/162 of 19 December 1977, 34/115 of 14 December 1979, 56/205 and 56/206 of 21 December 2001 and 57/275 of 20 December 2002,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolutions 2002/38 of 26 July 2002 and 2003/62 of 25 July 2003,

Recalling the Habitat Agenda[1] and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,[2]

Recalling also the goal contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[3] of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020, as proposed in the Cities Without Slums Initiative, and recalling also the goal contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation[4] to halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or afford safe drinking water and the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation,

Taking into account the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[5] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"), as well as the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[6]

Recognizing that the overall thrust of the new strategic vision of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and its emphasis on the two global campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance are strategic points of entry for the effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda, especially for guiding international cooperation in respect of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development,

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] Resolution S-25/2, annex.

[3] See resolution 55/2.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[5] Ibid., resolution 1, annex.

[6] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

Conscious of the need to achieve greater coherence and effectiveness in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Recognizing the need for increased and predictable financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation in the new millennium to ensure timely, effective and concrete results in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Implementation, particularly in developing countries,

Welcoming the establishment by the Executive Director of UN-Habitat of a Water and Sanitation Trust Fund as a financing mechanism to support the creation of enabling environments for pro-poor investment in water and sanitation in developing-country cities,

Commending those countries that have contributed to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council,[7]

Reiterating the call to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to increase her efforts to strengthen the Foundation in order to achieve its primary operative objective, as set out in General Assembly resolution 3327 (XXIX), of 16 December 1974, of supporting the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, including supporting shelter, related infrastructure-development programmes and housing-finance institutions and mechanisms, particularly in developing countries,

Recalling the decision of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session to address the themes of water, sanitation and human settlements in its next review and policy sessions,[8]

Noting the efforts by UN-Habitat to forge partnerships with Habitat Agenda partners, other United Nations funds and programmes and international financial institutions, such as the World Bank,

Recognizing that shelter and human settlements planning and administration are important sectors in humanitarian efforts,

Expressing its appreciation to the Government of Spain and the city of Barcelona for their willingness to host the second session of the World Urban Forum in 2004 and to the Government of Canada and the city of Vancouver for their willingness to host the third session of the World Urban Forum in 2006,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) on the work of its nineteenth session[9] and the report of the Secretary-General on the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome

[7] E/2003/76.

[8] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 9* (E/2003/29).

[9] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 8* (A/58/8).

of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the strengthening of UN-Habitat;[10]

2. *Recognizes* that Governments have the primary responsibility for the sound and effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda[1] and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,[2] and stresses that the international community should fully implement its commitments to support the Governments of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their efforts, through the provision of the requisite resources, capacity-building, the transfer of technology and the creation of an international enabling environment;

3. *Encourages* Governments to include issues pertaining to shelter and sustainable human settlements and urban poverty in their national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist;

4. *Urges* Governments to promote pro-poor investments in services and infrastructure, in particular water and sanitation, in order to improve living environments, in particular in slums and informal settlements;

5. *Encourages* Governments to establish local, national and regional urban observatories and to provide financial and substantive support to UN-Habitat for the further development of methodologies for data collection, analysis and dissemination;

6. *Also encourages* Governments to support and enable the participation of youth in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda through social, cultural and economic activities at the city level and other national- and local-level activities;

7. *Encourages* Governments and UN-Habitat to continue to promote partnerships with local authorities, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other Habitat Agenda partners, including women's groups and academic and professional groups, in order to empower them, within the legal framework and conditions of each country, to play a more effective role in the provision of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world;

8. *Encourages* UN-Habitat to continue to work closely with other relevant agencies within the United Nations system, in particular members and observers of the United Nations Development Group and the members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;[11]

9. *Requests* UN-Habitat to strengthen further its efforts to make the Cities Alliance initiative an effective means for the implementation of the twin goals of the Habitat Agenda, namely, adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world;

10. *Takes note with appreciation* of the efforts by the Cities Alliance partnership between the World Bank and UN-Habitat, and other donor countries, to continue to provide an important forum for policy coordination and development, as well as to provide support for the preparation of pro-poor city development strategies and slum-upgrading programmes within the legal framework and conditions of each country;

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[10] A/58/178.

[11] Established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991.

11. *Invites* the Secretary-General to incorporate the assessment of the progress towards the target of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020 in his report on the review in 2005 of the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[3]

12. *Welcomes* the fund-raising efforts of the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, which realized an increase in the general-purpose contributions of the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the year 2003;

13. *Calls* for continued financial support to UN-Habitat through increased voluntary contributions to the Foundation, and invites Governments to provide multi-year funding to support programme implementation;

14. *Requests* UN-Habitat to collaborate with the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in the preparations for the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development to promote a fruitful discussion on the thematic cluster of issues on water, sanitation and human settlements;

15. *Requests* the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to inform the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme of the results of the discussions on the topics of water, sanitation and human settlements at the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

16. *Notes* that the upcoming sessions in 2004, to be held in Barcelona, and 2006, to be held in Vancouver, of the World Urban Forum, a non-legislative technical forum, offer an opportunity to experts to exchange experiences, best practices and lessons learned in the field of human settlements;

17. *Invites* donor countries to support the participation of representatives of the developing countries in the second and future sessions of the World Urban Forum;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to UN-Habitat and the other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

19. *Requests* UN-Habitat, as the focal point for human settlements development and for coordination of human settlements activities within the United Nations system, to work towards coordination of human settlements issues as inputs to the overall coordination of humanitarian efforts, including through its participation in the consideration of the issue of the transition from relief to development, by the Economic and Social Council in the near future;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session an item entitled "Special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)".

Draft resolution II
Rules of procedure of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, in which it established the Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat),

Recalling also its resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, in which it decided to transform the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) into the secretariat of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), and the Commission on Human Settlements into the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly,

Having considered the recommendation of the Governing Council, in its resolution 19/1 of 9 May 2003,[1] that the General Assembly adopt its draft rules of procedure as contained in the annex to that resolution, and the oral statement by the Chairman of the Working Group on the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council,[2]

Adopts the draft rules of procedure of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) as contained in the annex to Governing Council resolution 19/1 of 9 May 2003.[2]

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 8* (A/58/8), annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II, appendix IV.